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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,688	02/27/2002	Hiroshi Aoki	Q68731	1569

7590 09/12/2002
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/083,688

Applicant(s)

AOKI, HIROSHI

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 May 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 7 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. Applicant summary of the invention is a verbatim copy of the claims. This is improper. Please provide a summarization of the claims in place of the exact copy.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1 and 4 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 8, "a insulating" should be changed --an insulating--.

Claim 1, line 9, "a interval" should be changed --an interval--.

Claim 1, line 13, "the pairs of piercing portions are" should be changed --the pair of piercing portion is--.

Claim 4, line 1, "claim 2" should be changed --claim 3--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Urushibata et al. (4,963,699).

Urushibata et al., figures 1 and 5, discloses a connector for connecting wires (6) to a flat circuit member (5) having a plurality of conductors (7). The connector comprising:

- a plurality of electrical connection terminals (10), each including a wire connection portion (1) at a rear end portion and a pair of piercing portions (3) to pierce the conductor of the flat circuit member at a front portion; and
- an insulating housing (12) for receiving and holding the plurality of electrical connection terminals at an interval corresponding to an arrangement pitch of the plurality of conductors of the flat circuit member. The pair of piercing portion is caused to pierce the plurality of conductors at one time and bent back.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urushibata et al. (4,963,699) in view of Nagai (6,394,836).

Urushibata et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the pair of piercing portions projects substantially upright.

Nagai, figure 4A, discloses a connection terminal (22) having projections (31) read as the pair of piercing portions projects substantially upright. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urushibata et al. to have the projections as taught by Nagai, in order to pierce through the conductive strip without fail (Nagai, column 3, lines 15-17).

8. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urushibata et al. (4,963,699) in view of Kinkaid et al. (4,082,402).

Urushibata et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the insulating housing includes a housing body with a plurality of terminal receiving grooves and a housing cover.

Kinkaid et al., figure 8, discloses an insulation block (42) having a base portion (44) with cavities (40) and a cover portion (45) read as the insulating housing includes a

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housing body with a plurality of terminal receiving grooves and a housing cover. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urushibata et al. to have the base portion with the cavities and the cover portion as taught by Kinkaid et al., for significant savings in manufacturing and shipping storage.

9. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urushibata et al. and Kinkaid et al. as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Rahrig et al. (4,690,478).

Urushibata et al. and Kinkaid et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for each of terminal receiving grooves includes a retaining projection engaged with the electrical connection terminal.

Rahrig et al., figures 2-4 and 12-15, discloses a channel (54) having a pair of snap-lock fingers (70a, 70b) are in locking engagement with a terminal (18) through an opening (42) read as each of terminal receiving grooves includes a retaining projection engaged with the electrical connection terminal. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urushibata et al. and Kinkaid et al. to have the pair of snap-lock fingers and the opening as taught by Rahrig et al., in order to securely retained the terminal within the channel.

Regarding claim 5, it is noted that Rahrig et al., figure 4, discloses each of the plurality of the electrical connection terminals includes an engagement portion (42) engaged with the corresponding retaining projection (70a, 70b).

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (703) 308-3119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

TL.
September 6, 2002



BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800